

A new name for a preoccupied specific epithet in the genus *Metaphalangium* Roewer, 1911 (Opiliones: Phalangiidae)

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Abstract

According to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999), *Metaphalangium strandi* Caporiacco, 1948 is not correct because the specific epithet is illegitimate. The authors request the replacement name of the specific epithet *strand*i Caporiacco, 1948 and they suggest *rhodesensis* nom. nov. Accordingly, new combination is herein proposed for the species: *Metaphalangium rhodesensis* nom. nov. pro *Metaphalangium strandi* Caporiacco, 1948 syn. n.

Keywords: Nomenclatural change, homonymy, replacement name, Opiliones, Phalangiidae, *Metaphalangium*.

Family Phalangiidae

Genus *Metaphalangium* Roewer, 1911

Species *Metaphalangium rhodesensis* nom. nov.

Metaphalangium strandi Caporiacco, 1948. L'aracnofauna di Rodi. Redia, 33, 27-75 (Opiliones: Phalangiidae). Preoccupied by *Metaphalangium strandi* (Nosek, 1905). Araneiden, Opilionen und Chernetiden. In: Penther, A., Zederbauer, E., Ergebnisse einer naturwissenschaftliche Reise zum Erdschais-Dagh (Kleinasien). Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien, 20, 114–154 (Opiliones: Phalangiidae).

The names *Metaphalangium strandi* (Nosek, 1905) and *Metaphalangium strandi* Caporiacco, 1948 were included in the family Phalangiidae.

The specific epithet *strandii* was initially introduced by Nosek (1905) with the original combination *Phalangium strandii* Nosek, 1905 from Niğde province in CSE Turkey. It is still used as a valid species name.

Subsequently, Caporiacco (1948) described a new species from Rhodes Island with the same specific epithet as *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 by original combination. According to Gruber (1978), Martens (1965) accepted the species *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 might be identical with *Zacheus crista* (Brullé, 1832). However, it is still used as a valid species name.

Metaphalangium strandii (Nosek, 1905) has priority over *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948. Thus, *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 is illegitimate and consequently can not be correct. The name *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 is a primary junior homonym of the name *Metaphalangium strandii* (Nosek, 1905). According to Article 60 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (1999), it must be rejected and replaced. It has no synonym. So, we propose for the specific epithet *strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 the replacement name *rhodesensis* nom. nov.

Etymology: The name is dedicated to Rhodes Island that is the type locality for *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948.

Summary of nomenclatural changes:

Genus *Metaphalangium* Roewer, 1911

Species *Metaphalangium rhodesensis* nom. nov.

pro *M. strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 syn. n., [nec *M. strandii* (Nosek, 1905)]

[orig. comb.: *Metaphalangium strandii* Caporiacco, 1948 from Rhodes Island]

References

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